

MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2002

*** * * APPROVED – May 17, 2002 * * ***

Members Present:

James A. Fink, Chair
The Honorable Darnell Jackson
The Honorable Edward Sosnick

Members Absent:

Catherine Lucas
Ferne Farber
Shirley Mann Gray
Michelle Hayes

Staff Present:

Lois Brennan
Michelle Bynum
Debi Cain, Executive Director
Sarah Heuser

Mary Lovik
Carri Phillips
Karen Porter
Joyce Wright

Guests:

Jim Beougher, CFS Director
Kathy Hagenian, MCADSV
Larry Hermen, Centerboard Associates

Welcome and Introductions

The March 1, 2002 Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDVPTB) meeting at the Radisson Hotel, Lansing, MI, convened at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made and a welcome extended to guests. J. Fink introduced the newest Board member, the Honorable Darnell Jackson, from the Saginaw District Court.

BOARD CONSENT

Due to lack of a quorum, the meeting agenda and approval of the December 5, 2001 meeting minutes could not be approved. J. Fink noted one suggested change to the minutes on page 2, regarding the motion to accept the Board's recommendation regarding rebuttable presumptions. The wording should be changed to read: Moved by F. Farber to accept the consensus recommendation

of the Board that the FIA support the concept of rebuttable presumption in custody cases where domestic violence is involved. Approval of the minutes will be tabled until the May, 2002 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

J. Fink noted that he and D. Cain attended a press conference in February at Kimball High School in Royal Oak, where the Lieutenant Governor announced criminal procedure changes for domestic violence arrests to include dating violence. The students showed a genuine concern regarding the topic and asked many questions. D. Cain noted that the MDVPTB staff is working on a packet for education and prevention purposes for use with schools and educators. She also showed a copy of the updated dating violence brochure.

Executive Limitation Policies: Emergency Executive Director Succession

J. Fink reviewed his proposed language change for the Emergency Executive Director Succession policy. The language provides consistency with the newest agreement between the FIA and the Board. Due to lack of a quorum, this item will be tabled until the May 2002 Board meeting.

MDVPTB/FIA Agreement:

J. Fink noted that he and J. Beougher have finalized the details for the MDVPTB/FIA Agreement. The Agreement is currently going through the Interagency Agreement review and signature process.

The Governance Process: Board Committee Principles

This item will be tabled until the May 2002 Board meeting

The Governance Process – Committee Structure

This item will be tabled until the May 2002 Board meeting.

MONITORING TO ASSURE ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Executive Limitations: Communication and Counsel to the Board

D. Cain reviewed her memo in response to the policy. She welcomed feedback from the Board regarding her performance. The issue of presenting information in lengthy form was discussed, in particular the large amount of information disseminated to Board members. As a result, D. Cain noted that vital information will now be flagged before being sent to Board members, which will assist in differentiating materials of greater importance from general information items.

Legislative Overview

D. Cain noted that the 24-bill legislative package came through rather quickly, with changes and negotiations occurring up until finalization. A Power Point presentation has been developed for presentation at the five domestic violence legislative training sessions being held throughout the state.

M. Lovik presented a condensed version of the Power Point legislative package. Her report included information regarding the basic elements of the pieces of legislation, what it means in terms of MDVPTB staff work that must now be completed, and follow-up implementation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WORK TO DATE

D. Cain announced that one of the implementation stages in which the MDVPTB staff is actively involved, and of which the Board is underwriting the cost, is the police reporting form and the piloting of that form in four communities.

D. Cain discussed several issues that have arisen as FIA is auditing domestic and sexual violence programs funded by MDVPTB. She discussed a memo she sent to all domestic violence and sexual assault programs regarding release of client information when audited. She also noted that FIA is submitting audit reports that reflect financial mistakes from the past two-plus years. Staff are generally writing both overbillings and underbillings off, since the books on past years are already closed. Staff will be focusing on how to assist programs in more accurate budgeting and billings.

An additional problem raised by the FIA financial audits occurred when an auditor discovered an FIA payment error of \$25,000 that should have been paid to a domestic violence program, but wasn't. To pay this \$25,000 now means it would have to come out of the current year budget. This presents a hardship for MDVPTB since we obviously did not budget for this FIA error. Staff is exploring how we can rectify the problem that once our office has processed and forwarded payment paperwork, we do not then receive verification of the payment.

D. Cain announced that there are several exciting grant opportunities; some of which we have taken advantage of, some we want to further pursue, and at least one we are not pursuing.

D. Cain noted that one of the important issues revealed in the Transitional Housing Report is the importance of available supervised visitation. Visitation is being ordered with the batterer, but there is no safe way for women or their children to accomplish the visitation and they have stated the desperate need for this to be done in a safe environment. There is federal money available through VAWO, so the MDVPTB staff will look at a plan on behalf of the Board to pilot safe visitation specific to domestic violence in the State of Michigan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROCESS EVALUATION

There was no process evaluation

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates

The next MDVPTB meeting will be held on **Friday, May 17, 2002** in Lansing.

Future meeting dates: **Friday, September 20, 2002**

Documents referenced in these minutes may be obtained from Carri Phillips, MDVPTB. She can be reached at (517) 335-6388.

The **WEBPAGE** for the MDVPTB is located at:
<http://www.michigan.gov/fia>

Respectfully submitted,
Carri Phillips